



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: November 8, 2012

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **City of Minneapolis Pothole Repair Policy**

Recommendation: Adopt the proposed City of Minneapolis Pothole Repair Policy.

Previous Directives: N/A

Prepared by: Michael D. Kennedy, P.E., Director, Transportation Maintenance & Repair

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Michael D. Kennedy, P.E., Director, Transportation Maintenance & Repair

Reviews: N/A

Financial Impact: No financial impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: N/A

City Goals: The City's infrastructure will be well-maintained; streets will be destinations.

Comprehensive Plan: N/A

Zoning Code: N/A

Background/Supporting Information

Staff from Public Works, Finance Risk and Claims Management, and the City Attorney's Office met in 2011 and 2012 to discuss the city's response to pothole related claims. It was decided that the city would benefit from a pothole policy that would aid pothole damage claim deliberation. The attached policy is the result. Management from 311 also expressed a desire to have a written policy for their knowledge and reference. Advantages in adopting policy include, but are not limited to:

- Policy makers, city leadership, city staff, and the public will understand how the city addresses pothole damage claims.

- City claims investigators, hearing officers and attorneys will have a framework and guidance to use during deliberations and defense of pothole claims.
- 311 agents and other staff or officials will respond consistently to calls or inquiries about pothole issues.
- A written document will provide consistent guidance to management and field supervisors involved with pothole repair.

As pavements age and deteriorate they exhibit increasing distresses and defects. The most common visible, obvious manifestation of these distresses is potholes. There are many variables that contribute to the number of potholes in our streets at any given time, including age, condition of the street and weather conditions. The amount budgeted for pothole repairs is determined on an annual basis and it must be compete with other city service delivery priorities and is based on available resources.

Therefore, given the financial realities and the variable amount of reactive repairs needed (pothole patching) our response time to pothole reports will vary. It is recommended that the city adopt a policy to establish pothole repair priorities.

Attachments: City of Minneapolis Pothole Repair Policy document

Cc: Susan L. Segal, City Attorney
Kevin Carpenter, Chief Financial Officer